

Friendship Company Update

By Jill Freese

The Friend Ship Company guides our children towards God through worshipping, learning and growing together.

Kids in the Friend Ship Company have been shouting praises on Sunday mornings! Three-year-olds through 5th graders are gathering together to worship God in song, memorize Scripture and learn the wonderful stories of God. Our theme for November through January is "Our God Saves." Our teachers are using a program from Shout Praises Kids which incorporates wonderful worship music to reach the children in our ministry. Teaching them about the one true God who is both huge and majestic, yet real and personal, is essential in helping them have a better understanding of the way that God impacts their daily lives. Shout Praises Kids is a tool we're using to help children experience and understand worship, as well as practically grasp the way that God cares for each of them individually and wants a personal relationship with them.

The kids also participate in simple activities intended to drive home what they've learned during their time in the Friend Ship Company. There's also a take home piece that will reinforce the things they experience.

Every Sunday, kids:

Get started - where they express their thankfulness and affection to God for who He is and what He's done in their lives. We're using a video format along with live worship provided by members of our adult music team (you should see how much fun those adults are having!)

Get wise - by learning and memorizing Scripture. We focus on the same verse for two weeks and the more you say it with them, the more they'll remember it.

Get connected - where the subject for the week is introduced in a fun way and kids connect with their teachers and with each other.

Get smart - by hearing a Bible story, series of Bible verses or present-day story that ties into the theme for that week. Kids are actively engaged in the story and sometimes even help to tell it!

Get real - where they apply what they have learned in a tangible way to help them remember .

Get challenged - by taking home their "SPK Challenge" sheet and having an opportunity to share with their parents and family what they have learned.

The Friend Ship Company kids will be singing in the adult services on Sunday, December 19th. Invite your families and friends - this is always a highlight!

The Christmas Shoe Box

By MaryAnn Meisenzahl

How much simpler can an item be? A cardboard box designed to hold shoes. Very humble and utilitarian in design we hang on to the box with the excuse of "just in case I may need it". As a child I called an old shoe box my 'treasure box'. It was kept behind the doors of a window seat in the bedroom I shared with my sister. In it I squirreled away drawings, notes, movie star's pictures, beautifully shaped small stones, dried leaves and chestnuts knocked out of the huge trees that lined our street.

In 1993 Franklin Graham started Operation Christmas Child. Over 77 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced the gift of love in receiving a shoe box filled with toys, candy, hats, tee shirts, books, letters and so much more. Each box is filled by a family or individual and prayed over before being sent on its journey across the world.

This year Lakeshore Community Church stepped up and became a drop-off location for other churches in our immediate area. The brightly wrapped boxes were then transported to regional processing centers and on to one of the seven major shipping centers in the United States to be packed into cartons for overseas delivery on ships and planes. A huge undertaking with thousands of volunteers coordinating the effort to bring the brightest of treasures into the lives of millions of boys and girls we most likely will never meet. Boys and girls, many of whom have no shoes to even know what a shoe box is.

The light of Jesus shines brightly as each cover comes off and who knows what path that heavenly light will open up to these children, the world recipients of God's grace. A perfect grace given through our simple boxes bought and filled with love. The final count of Lakeshore boxes totaled 320 with the grand total boxes collected at Lakeshore 1,327.

Shopping to fill the three boxes my husband and I take each year is without a doubt the happiest shopping experience for me. It reminds me of the things I stored in my treasure box. I'm proud to be associated with the caring community of Lakeshore Community Church who are always finding ways to reach out to our community and the world. Watch for more to be happening as we walk further into Rochester and beyond to bring the hope of our Lord to all we touch. Merry Christmas everyone. I wish you treasure from heaven.



**"For You are
my hope,
O Lord God;
You are my
trust from my
youth"
(Psalm 71:5)**

Taking Music into the Community

By Maurice Overholt

Tami Kryger is confined to a wheelchair, but you will always see a smile on her face. She sits down front and sings her heart out almost every Sunday, and she is accompanied by her housemates and several living assistants. Tami and her friends have been attending here less than a year, and they live just a few minutes away in a group home just down the street from Pastor Herb.

In March, during the *What Color Is Your Paint* series, Tami signed up to audition for the Music Team. A month later, when Pastor Frank and I met with her and her assistant, Janice, we asked Tami why she wanted to sing on the Music Team. She said she loved Jesus, she loved to sing, and she wanted to do her part. She has a very limited range of motion in her body, and she is not able to speak clearly all of the time, but she was still looking for God's will in her life. After speaking with her and her assistant for a while we knew that the Music Team was not a good fit for Tami, but we still wanted to see her using her gifts and passion.

Pastor Frank looked at me and said, "What if we took the Music Team to her, since she is not able to be on the Music Team?" The result was Tuesday, August 31, when a dozen or so members of the Music Team and their families converged at Tami's group home for an hour or so of singing, finger foods, and "hang time." Tami picked out the worship songs she wanted us to do ahead of time, and we just came with our guitars and shakers. The weather was beautiful, so we sang and sat around outside.

As I drove away that evening, I knew that we would be back. I also knew that whatever problems or challenges were on my plate, they were small compared to what Tami and her housemates face every day; and if they can be happy in spite of their challenges, I certainly can be happy in the face of mine.

Later Cindy Kruger, assistant manager of the house, wrote a letter back to the Music Team, thanking them for spending time with Tami and her housemates and for making Tami feel like a part of the music ministry. Cindy also mentioned that Tami's housemate was moved deeply by the music because it reminded her of her grandmother who used to go to church and passed away last year.

Needless to say, the Music Team will be returning to Tami's home in December to sing carols and hang with her and her housemates again, and I expect that time to be as memorable and special as the first. I imagine we will be back quarterly as well, building bridges with people we did not know a year ago, people who impact our lives as much as or more than we impact theirs.

The Elevate Seven Step Journey©

Coming soon to Lakeshore Community Church!

Two-thirds of Americans are overweight with a full one-third obese. The costs of a de-conditioned life extend well beyond the high price tag of our national health care and hit each of us close to home. We experience the costs personally in terms of a poor self image, limited mobility, low energy requiring artificial energy enhancements, a lack of passion for our work and the ministries God has given to us, and real hindrances to our connectivity to God and the life Jesus calls "abundant."

We are happy to announce that on Sunday February 20, 2011, Chip Toth, former Senior Pastor of Walnut Hill Community Church in Pittsford and the founder of the Elevate Seven Step Journey, will be speaking on the subject of healthy living in a message entitled, *Your Body: God's Locus Of Power*. Toth says, "God wants your body as well as your soul! And it is your body that is the primary platform God intends to work on and through to complete the good work He has begun in you."

Elevate is a purpose-driven, team approach to achieving full and robust health. The Seven Step Journey will provide you with the education, inspiration, and relational support systems you need to achieve full health and fitness. Elevate's caring staff members include a certified nutritionist and a nationally acclaimed fitness instructor. Elevate will help you set reasonable and achievable health goals and then provide regular learning and exercise sessions that will keep you inspired and growing. Information on the Elevate program will be available after both services on Sunday, February 20.

For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:20

